

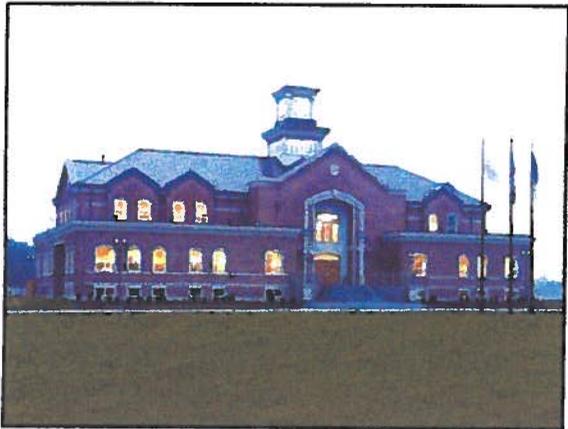
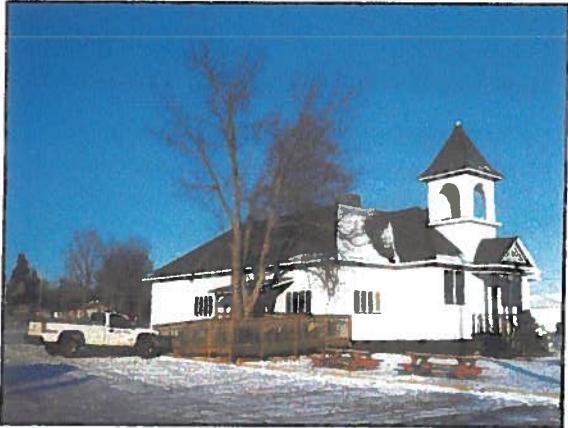
Michigan Townships Association

**Our Mission:**  
*Promote the interests of Michigan Townships by fostering strong, vibrant communities; advocating legislation to meet 21<sup>st</sup> century challenges; developing knowledgeable township officials and enthusiastic supporters of township government; encouraging ethical practices of elected officials who uphold the traditions and unique characteristics of township government and the values of the people of Michigan.*

What is a township? 

The most common form of local government in Michigan

Michigan currently contains 1,240 townships - varying in size and population



What is a township?

- Home to more than half of all Michigan residents live in a township
- The governing unit for over 95% of the geographic area of the state

### Township Officers

- Supervisor
- Clerk
- Treasurer
- Trustees, not to exceed four--powers and duties provided by law
- Terms of not less than two nor more than four years as prescribed by law
- Article VII, § 18 Township officers; term, powers and duties.

### Two Kinds of Townships

- General Law Townships
- Charter Townships
- Over 2,000 population
- 4 Trustees
- All authorities of a General Law Township, plus ...
- The Charter Township Act
- Administrative authority delegated to supervisor or superintendent
- Treasurer
- Clerk
- Supervisor
- Township Board
- Provided for in Michigan Constitution
- 2 or 4 Trustees
- MAY have additional taxation authority (qualified)
- Qualified boundary protection

### Limited Powers

“...possess only those limited powers which are expressly conferred upon them by State Constitution or state statute or which are necessarily implied therefrom.”

*Hanselman v Killeen - 429 Mich. 168 (1984)*

### Township Functions

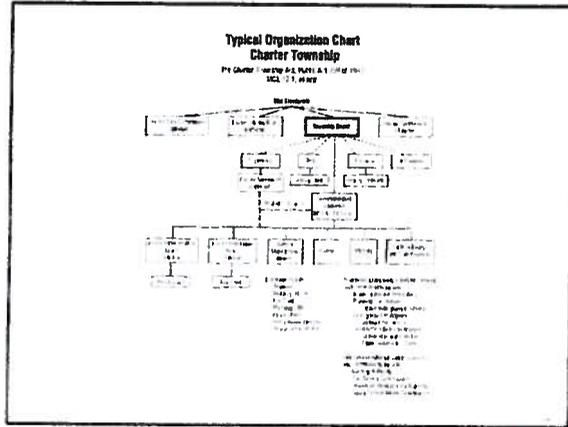
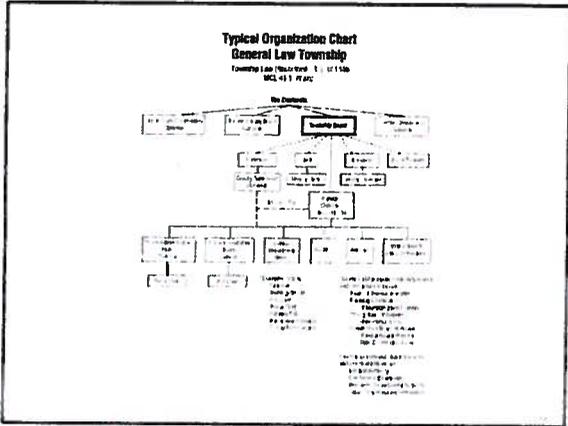
- **Mandated**
  - Elections
  - Assessing
  - Tax Collecting
  - Township Board
  - Legislative Functions
  - Open Meetings; Acts and Freedom of Information
  - Act compliance
  - Accounting, Audit, and Financial Reporting
- **Permissive**
  - Roads
  - Fire Protection
  - Police Protection
  - Emergency Medical
  - Water / Sewer
  - Parks and Recreation
  - Planning and Zoning
  - Code Enforcement
  - Ordinance Enforcement
  - Liquor Inspections
  - Library
  - Cemetery
  - Etc....

### Sources of Authority

- Michigan Constitution
- State statutes passed by the Legislature
- Case law (court decisions)

### Townships

- As a local government:
  - Assess property
  - Levy and collect taxes
  - Conduct elections
  - Make laws by adopting ordinances
  - Regulate land use
  - Regulate activities with general purpose
  - “police power” for public health, safety and welfare
  - Exercise powers and duties expressly granted or fairly implied by law
- As a body corporate (municipal corporation):
  - Acquire, own and dispose of real and personal property
  - Sue and be sued
  - Appoint necessary agents and attorneys for that purpose
  - Make contracts necessary and convenient for the exercise of their corporate powers
  - Incur and pay obligations
  - Receive and deposit monies



### Examples of Township Departments

- Fire Department
- Building Department
- Planning & Zoning Department
- Assessing Department
- Parks Department
- Police Department

### Interaction with Other Entities

- Villages
  - assess
  - handle appeal of assessments to Board of Review
  - conduct village elections
  - collect (summer) village taxes
- School Districts
  - collects State Education Tax (with exceptions)
  - may collect school millage (summer)
- Counties

### Interaction with Other Entities

- County Road Commissions
  - may pay for county road projects
  - enforce speeding, parking or other traffic violations
  - be involved with setting speed limits on co. highways
- County Sheriffs

### Michigan's Local Governments

- Michigan has 11<sup>th</sup> largest population
- Michigan has fewer local government employees
  - Ranking 43<sup>rd</sup> on a per capita basis
  - Lowest ratio of any other Great Lake State
- Michigan has lower local government payroll
  - Ranking 37<sup>th</sup> on a per capita basis

Questions

Strengthening for the future

- Regional partnerships for economic growth
- Job creation
- Placemaking
- Maintaining and creating attractive communities
- Renewable energy